

growing very exuberantly along an edge of it (Fig. 10-11). Again the plants are quite mature, including some especially large *Dionaea* (Fig. 12) raised originally from seed. The plants had mostly been crowded in Ron's own greenhouse until it was time to move in. The pond area had been planted the summer before while work on the Conservatory was still in progress and they had nicely survived the winter.

The growing medium along the edge of the pond is actually a fill of peat and local river sand in a portion of the pond with a structural band to hold up the shoreline. This places the water table only about 6-8 inches beneath the surface. During the winter, Ron protected more tender plants such as small butterworts, sundews and *Sarracenia psittacina* (Fig. 13) with a mulch covering of pine needles. Given the success so far with this outdoor planting, he plans to expand it into unused parts of the planting area of this pond which will nearly triple the CP planting. He weeds fairly frequently by cutting unwanted herbs off just below the surface. He feels that this is less disturbing than pulling weeds by the roots which come up with adherent growing medium and often smaller CP as well. The cutting technique is of course exactly what a farmer does with his cultivator, and most often the roots eventually die.

We bade Ron farewell and thanked him for taking a great deal of time showing us around and talking with us, and went off to look at "ordinary" plants elsewhere in the Garden. We will certainly be back.

In the eastern United States at least, this is undoubtedly the CP display and genestock for other gardens, including many older ones, to emulate. If you are passing near or through Atlanta, or can make a trip there specifically, by all means stop by and look this entire Garden over. The Atlanta Botanic Garden is in Piedmont Park on the Piedmont Avenue side; the Park is shown on all sidebar maps of Atlanta on southeastern or Georgia roadmaps and is easily accessible from either I-85 northeast, or I-75/I-85 passing through the city.

C.I.T.E.S. The Dream and the Reality

By "Mr. Smith," Australia

When I first heard the CITES regulations were coming in I wondered if they would prove a valuable conservation aid or just another lot of red tape. Unfortunately the case is the latter.

In Eastern Australia *Sarracenia* species and hybrids flourish and flower and set seed freely. Because of CITES regulations I cannot send *Sarracenia* seed to C.P.N.'s seed bank. Just how is this helping preserve them in their natural habitats?

Three *Sarracenia* species are on Appendix I, they being *S. oreophila*, *S. rubra* ssp. *jonesii* and *S. rubra* ssp. *alabamensis*. The latter two are given a rather artificial specific status for CITES purposes.

I received 3 small rhizomes of all 3 about 20 years ago in the case of *S. oreophila* and *S. rubra* ssp. *jonesii* and of *S. rubra* ssp. *alabamensis* about a year after its discovery. I received seed of the albino form of *S. rubra* ssp. *jonesii* a few months after its discovery.

All have flourished under my conditions and have been divided many times. Most of the divisions have been sold or given away within Australia with the result that within this country they are easier to obtain than some colour forms of *S. flava* and *S. purpurea* fma. *heterophylla*.

I have on at least 6 occasions sent plants of the three Appendix I *Sarracenia*s to collectors in U.S.A. The most recent two times were after the CITES regulations were in and I used false names. Why I have had to do this is that by sending these plants I was discouraging the people they were going to from being tempted to try and illegally collect their own.

What has happened to reduce the Appendix I *Sarracenia*s to an endangered situation?

(1) They originally had small habitats.

(2) Destruction of habitats through activities of man. – Agriculture, artificial lakes, draining of swamps, golf courses, etc.

(3) Illegal collection. – not significant until populations were so small because of habitat destruction. Where do these illegally collected plants go? The only country that sells wild collected *Sarracenia* rhizomes is U.S.A. In Australia it is easier to propagate our own as imported plants take at least 2 years to fully reverse seasons and quarantine house conditions often cause losses. The only times I have imported is to get varieties I could not get in Australia. Few if any illegally collected rare *Sarracenias* ever are sent out of U.S.A.

Now *Nepenthes*. Under my conditions many of these will grow out of doors and most of these flower freely. I have about 30 large seedlings of our Appendix I *N. khasiana*. I also have a cutting grown plant that a friend gave me. It has flowered and is a female. Presumably one at least of my seedlings will be a male and I will be able to produce plenty of seed of it. What will I be able to do with it? Everyone who grows *Nepenthes* in Australia has it. I can't legally send it overseas without a lot of fuss and red tape. How does this help conserve the species in its natural habitat?

I imported 12 *Nepenthes* plants last year. The friend sending them could not get his CITES permit in time so he sent them to another friend who he thought could get one sooner. He could not so they finally went via a third person. The permit was a very restrictive one only allowing certain named plants in. Curiously *N. khasiana* was on it but had been crossed out. With a few adjustments my plants fitted the permit and so they came here. The quarantine here managed to get some of the names wrong, but I was still able to know which was which if I consulted my lists. One time the quarantine inspector carefully looked at each plant but if all had been *Sarracenias* he would not have known the difference. Just what was all this great fuss over? Not it was not *N. rajah* or *N. khasiana* or hybrids of them. Ten were hybrids and the other 2 were one each *hirsuta* and *ventricosa* (speckled form). I want them for breeding and expect eventually to have spare seed from them and guess what I won't legally be allowed to do with it.

If the aim of CITES was to accelerate the extinction of endangered species, its present regulations would assist this.

Tepuis

The Lands Unknown

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On the evening of January 24, 1990, I will arrive in Caracas, Venezuela to begin a project that I have been dreaming about for the past ten years. I will study the delicate ecological balance of the northernmost reaches of the Amazon Basin of South America, where nature has carved over 100 fantastic table mountains, or tepuis, as they are called by the Indians.

In September of 1979, I first learned about the tepuis of Venezuela upon reading an illustrious description by Joseph Mazrimas within the pages of CPN. I dreamed of someday visiting this region that has proven to be nearly inaccessible to mankind. Today that time has come. I will soon learn the hidden secrets of the tepuis.

I have organized a nonprofit corporation called TEPUIS to conduct and publish ecological research. TEPUIS is coordinating efforts in Venezuela which will last a minimum of six months or, more likely, as long as several years. Offices are located in Berkeley, California and a research facility will be opened in Venezuela to coordinate South American expeditions.

TEPUIS's expeditions are largely funded by private and institutional donations. TEPUIS provides photographic portfolios and live botanical specimens in return for contributions that support our research efforts. You will see many of the results of our expeditions illustrated and described within the pages of CPN in the coming months.

TEPUIS researchers have been trained to take great care not to disturb the ecological balance of any region when obtaining specimens from the field. Our efforts have the support of the